

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting Monday, October 11, 2004

Members Present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Mr. Hall, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Stowe, Mrs. Spearman for Superintendent Tenenbaum, Representative Walker, Mrs. Williams and Mr. Wilson

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- II. **Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the August 19 meeting were approved as distributed.
- III. **Substantive Discussion:** College Board Programs and Services - How to improve South Carolina' Performance

Mr. Staton introduced Dr. Leroy Fails, Vice President of the College Board, to discuss College Board programs and services that promote higher achievement. He discussed the approaches used in other states, namely Arkansas and Florida, and the progress made in those states. He outlined the ways in which the PSAT scores can be used to predict and encourage enrollment in the advanced placement program. He also outlined how these programs and adherence to the recommended courses led to higher performance. Members asked a series of questions ranging from the use of advanced placement to teacher training to parent and student use of score reports. Dr. Fails outlined a series of services available at no cost to schools or the state.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

A. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He reviewed the recommendations and discussion regarding the inclusion of PACT science and social studies courses in the school and district ratings. He outlined the proposal to include a phase-in of weightings in the absolute ratings and an immediate inclusion in the improvement ratings. When fully implemented with the 2007 report card, performance on science and social studies assessments is to be weighted at 20 percent each for elementary grades and at 25 percent each for middle grades. The recommendations were adopted as presented.

B. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Stowe reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the process by which the

subcommittee would review budget requests and develop its recommendations for consideration at the December EOC meeting.

Mr. Stowe asked Dr. Horne to review the findings and recommendations regarding the Teacher Loan Program. Mr. Stowe asked for approval of the recommendations and a request of the staff to provide further information on the amount that a student can borrow and its relationship to tuition costs.

Mr. Stowe asked Dr. Horne to review the findings of the review of school use of retraining grant funds. Dr. Horne detailed the response rate for the current year (275 of 276 schools), the use of the funds and the persistent challenges including administrative turnover. This interim report is used for the approval of extensions of grants; the final report with academic progress noted is to be provided in December.

C. **Parent and Community Involvement:** Mr. Hall presented on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the program review discussed at the subcommittee meeting.

D. **Public Awareness:** Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He indicated that the subcommittee is working on the reading project and is soliciting membership in the advisory board. He also introduced members to Mrs. Dana Yow, the Director of Communications. He drew members' attention to the performance trends published on the EOC website.

E. **Administration:** Mr. Staton drew members' attention to the information on the testing task force. The task force is to provide recommendations to the EOC in February 2005.

V. **Alternative Technical Assistance:** Mr. Staton asked Dr. Horne to present the criteria for the alternative technical assistance. Dr. Horne shared the final document. He was asked what the cut score will be; Dr. Horne indicated at least 40 of 60 points. The criteria were approved as distributed (the distributed criteria incorporated one wording change from the mailed copy).

VI. **Other Business:**

- (1) Mr. Staton informed members that he and others are working on a plan for revision of the long-range plan;
- (2) Mr. Walker questioned Mrs. Spearman about the ADEPT data provided to the members. He expressed concerns over the number of non-respondents and the percentage of teachers under informal evaluation. Mrs. Spearman is going to provide further detail; and

- (3) Senator Fair expressed concerns regarding changes in the state NCLB accountability plan. He is concerned because funds are withheld from schools because of under-identification of real problems and that the changes were made in a unilateral fashion. Mr. Staton indicated the EOC would take his concerns under advisement.

There being no other business, the EOC adjourned.